

Capt. Matthew J. McCloskey

United States Navy



Born in Philadelphia, Penn., Capt. Matthew J. McCloskey entered the U.S. Naval Academy from Knoxville, Tenn., and was commissioned in 1982. Following a short assignment at the Academy, he completed flight training and was designated a naval aviator in 1984.

Completing FRS training at Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron (Light) (HSL) 31 in September of 1984, Capt. McCloskey joined the “Magicians” of HSL-35 flying the SH-2F and made two deployments to the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean as Detachment Administrative and Maintenance Officer aboard USS Fletcher (DD 992) and USS Paul F. Foster (DD 964). He also served as Squadron Schedules Officer.

In 1988, Capt. McCloskey was assigned to the Naval Academy where he worked primarily in the Physical Education Department. During his tour he helped establish and taught in the newly established Academic Skills Center, worked as an academic counselor for the Athletic department, established initial Academic eligibility and assisted in the Academy’s NCAA compliance division and completed a Master of Science in management of Information Systems from The George Washington University.

After transitioning to the SH-60B at HSL-41, Capt. McCloskey reported to the “Battlecats” of HSL-43 in June of 1991. As a “Battlecat,” he served as administrative, Safety and Maintenance Officer and deployed as officer in charge of a two aircraft detachment aboard USS John Young (DD 973).

In October of 1994, Capt. McCloskey was assigned to the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I., and earned a Master of Arts in Strategic and National Security Affairs. Capt. McCloskey remained in Newport as aide to the President of the War College until May 1997 when he reported to Current Operations Branch, Operations Directorate of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, D.C.

Selected for command, Cmdr. McCloskey completed refresher training at HSL-41 and reported to the “Warlords” of HSL-51 in Atsugi, Japan where he served as Executive and Commanding Officer in December 1999. After a successful command tour, he reported to USS Saipan (LHA 2) as Air Boss and immediately deployed in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. Capt. McCloskey then reported to HSL-41 Seahawks and served as Commanding Officer from March 2004 until May 2005. Capt. McCloskey served as the Executive Officer of USS Boxer (LHD 4) and then the Commanding Officer since 2005 and led the ship through a nine-month, twice-extended deployment to the Arabian Gulf and Continuing Promise.

Capt. McCloskey’s decorations include three Meritorious Service Medal’s, Joint Commendation Medal, two Navy Commendation medals, Navy Achievement Medal, and various service, unit and deployment awards.